Companies (OMCs) with total bottling capacity of 6,464Thousand Metric Tonne per annum (TMTPA) were functioning in the country. In addition to this, 2 bottling plants of 27 TMTPA capacity are also mechanically completed.

(b) and (c) Apart from augmentation and commissioning of new LPG bottling plants, carried over from Ninth plan, OMCs have the plan to set up 3 news LPG bottling plants with a capacity of 132 TMTPA at the cost of Rs. 70 crores during the Tenth plan in the country.

Mew crude oil wells

2066. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new crude oil wells have been explored in the country recently.

(b) if so, the details of location thereof and the assessment made regarding the quantity of crude oil expected to be found in those wells; and

(c) the amount spent on the exploration of these oil wells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Twenty nine new oil and associated gas finds have been made, 13 by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. 10 by Oil India Ltd., and 6 by private/Joint venture companies during the three years from 1999-2000 to 2001-2002. These finds are located in: Andhra Pradesh-2 Assam-13, Cambay Offshore-2, Gujarat-2, Krishna-Godavari Deepwater-2, Mumbai Offshore-6 and Rajasthan-2.The hydrocarbon reserves assessed in these finds as on 1.4.2002 were 29.15 Million Metric Tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas. The reserves are assessed every year on financial year basis.

(c) The amount spent on the exploration of these finds has been approximately Rs. 5,388.37 crores by ONGC and OIL and US $ 225.2 million, approximately equivalent to Rs. 1,103.48 crores* by private/joint venture companies.

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*Exchange Rate : 1US $=Rs.49